

HEBREWS 2

FIRST DAY: Introduction

It is a dangerous thing to *neglect* our great salvation! We do this when we diminish the generosity and greatness of what Jesus did and what He brought to us by His incarnation and sacrifice. When we fail to consider, understand, and appreciate what Jesus has done for us, we begin to *drift away* from the Lord. Hebrews 2 reminds us that our salvation is great because of the greatness of Jesus' incarnation. Jesus, the Son of God, became a man that through His humanity He might:

- Restore mankind to God's original intent—giving man back the glory and stewardship that was given him at creation
- Suffer death for everyone
- Bring many sons to glory
- Understand and empathize with the suffering of all men
- Destroy the power of the one who held death over mankind

- Release mankind from the fear of death
- Give aid to all who suffer

In writing of the incarnation of Christ, Paul stated, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory* (1 Timothy 3:16).

Only as we consider the incarnation of Jesus can we begin to grasp the greatness of our salvation. Jesus was **demoted** that we might be **promoted**!

Ask God to give you a greater understanding and appreciation for the incarnation of Jesus.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 2:1–4

1. Considering the greatness of Jesus, what is the precaution we *must* all take? Hebrews 2:1a
 - a. Share a way you can *heed* this admonition.
 - b. Use Hebrews 2:1b to describe the danger of not heeding this admonition.

(1) List a few ways that someone can *drift away*.

2. Hebrews 2:2 (NLT) says of the Mosaic Law, *For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished.* The author of Hebrews wanted his readers to remember how severe the punishment was for neglecting the Mosaic Law. Since the Mosaic Law carried such harsh consequences, what does this convey to you about the consequences *if we neglect so great a salvation?*

3. In light of these things, the author posed a sobering challenge to believers. Use Hebrews 2:3a to fill in the blanks:

*How shall we _____ if we _____
so _____ a _____?*

- a. Describe the *escape* the author is referring to by connecting this Scripture with John 3:16–18.
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4. Use Hebrews 2:3b–4 to answer the following about our *great salvation*:
 - a. Who spoke this to us *at the first*? (verse 3b)

 - b. By whom was it *confirmed* to us? (verse 3c)

 - c. In what ways did God Himself bear *witness* to this *salvation*? See also John 20:30–31. (verse 4)
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- (1) How do these things confirm to you the greatness of your *salvation*?
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5. What warning did you receive from your study today?

6. Share a few reasons why your salvation is *so great* to you.

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 2:5–9

1. The author of Hebrews, having established the essentiality of giving the *more earnest heed* to what we have heard, then explored the greatness of God's original intention for mankind. Read Hebrews 2:5–8 and write a brief statement about what you receive concerning:
 - a. Who God did NOT put the world *in subjection to*

 - b. God's care for mankind

 - c. God's original intention for mankind (See Genesis 1:27–29)

2. *We do not yet see* man glorified as God intends. However, according to Hebrews 2:9a, what evidence do *we see* of God's restoration of mankind?

a. How did Jesus initiate and accomplish God's plan?
Hebrews 2:9b

b. Bible commentator Warren Wiersbe says of Jesus, *He is God's answer to man's dilemma. Jesus Christ became a man that He might suffer and die for man's sin and restore the dominion that was lost because of sin.*³ How does this minister to you about:

(1) God's love

(2) God's intentions for your life

(3) God's great salvation

- c. Observe that Jesus did all these things *by the grace of God*. What does this convey to you about God's grace?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 2:10–13

1. What did the author state about God in Hebrews 2:10a?

2. According to Hebrews 2:10b, what was God's desire for *many sons*?

- a. In order to accomplish this enormous feat, what was necessary for *the captain of their salvation*? Hebrews 2:10c

- (1) Why do you think it was *fitting* for Jesus to suffer? See also Luke 24:46–47 and 1 Peter 3:18.

- (2) The word *captain* literally means *pioneer—one who opens the way for others to follow*. How does this increase your appreciation for what Jesus has done?
3. Hebrews 2:11 (NLT) says, *So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters*. Link this with Matthew 12:50 and Romans 8:29 and share your thoughts.
4. From the cross, Jesus quoted the first verse of Psalm 22. This psalm vividly described the death and accomplishment of the Messiah through the crucifixion. Read this psalm, concentrating on verse 22, to understand the glorious promotion believers receive through Christ (Hebrews 2:12). What do you find most remarkable about this?

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 2:14–18

1. Read Hebrews 2:14–15 (NLT): ¹⁴*Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood.* ^b*For only as a human being could He die,* ^c*and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.* ¹⁵*Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.* Why did Jesus become *flesh and blood*? (verse 14a)

a. Continuing to use the verses above, identify and comment on the three things that could *only* be done by Jesus as a *human being*:

(1) Verse 14b

(2) Verse 14c

(3) Verse 15

(a) What does it mean to you to be freed from the *fear of dying*? See also Psalm 107:14 and 1 Corinthians 15:54–57.

b. How does this emphasize the essentiality of Jesus' humanity?

2. Use Hebrews 2:16 to note those to whom Jesus *does* and *does not give aid*.

3. What did Jesus have to do in order to *give aid* to us? Hebrews 2:17a

a. For what further reasons did Jesus do this? Hebrews 2:17b

(1) Pastor David Guzik says, *If Jesus were not like us He could not be our High Priest, representing us before the Father and making atonement (propitiation) for our sins.*⁴ What does it mean to you that Jesus is:

(a) A *merciful* High Priest

(b) A *faithful* High Priest

4. According to Hebrews 2:18a, Jesus *suffered, being tempted*. What assurance does this offer to every believer? Hebrews 2:18b

a. How is this a comfort to you in your present circumstances?

5. Share a reason you are thankful for the humanity of Jesus.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Drawing from your study this week, write a sentence about each of the following:

a. Giving earnest heed

b. Neglect

c. Drifting

d. God's original intent for man

e. The necessity of Jesus' humanity

f. The grace of God

g. The captain of our salvation

2. What would you say about our great salvation to:

a. A struggling believer

b. An unbeliever